

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings; objected to the abstract; rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; rejected claims 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; and rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0130576 to Fujita et al. (“Fujita”).

By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-6 and add new claims 7-9. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s objection to drawings 1 and 2, as allegedly requiring an identification of “Prior Art.” Drawings 1 and 2 are used in describing Applicants invention, for example, at ¶ [0023] of the specification. Accordingly, the Examiner should remove the drawing objection.

Applicants amend the abstract to address the Examiner’s concerns.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner alleges that “[t]here is insufficient structural evidence or support” for the means plus function limitations. Office Action, page 3. Applicants’ respectfully disagree.

Applicants’ specification discloses control unit 31 that “controls respective components of the camcorder 30.” *Applicants’ Specification*, ¶ [0024], item 31, Figures 3 and 4. Control unit 31 includes aspect-ratio monitoring unit 51, which provides sufficient structural support for the claimed “detecting means.” Specifically, “[i]n step S1, the aspect-ratio monitoring unit 51 determines, on the basis of information indicative of the aspect ratio of moving images that are being played back, whether the aspect

ratio of moving images is changed during playback...” *Applicants’ Specification*, ¶ [0034].

Moreover, control unit 31 also includes button display control unit 53, sensitive area setting unit 54, and image processing unit 36, which provide sufficient structural support for the claimed “changing means.” Specifically, “[i]n step S3, the button display control unit 53 changes the button data such that the display size of each operation button matches the changed aspect ratio and outputs the resultant data to the image processing unit 36 via the bus 33.” *Applicants’ Specification*, ¶ [0034]. See also, ¶ [0035].

Control unit 31 also includes command generating unit 56, which provides sufficient structural support for the claimed “generating means.” Specifically, “[i]n step S8, the command generating unit 56 generates a command corresponding to the pressed continuous button and outputs the command to at least one appropriate part. *Applicants’ Specification*, ¶ [0040].

For at least these reasons, Applicants’ specification provides sufficient support for the means plus function limitations, and the claims are clear and definite.

Applicants amend claims 3 and 6 to recite a “computer-readable medium storing program instructions.” Accordingly, claims 3 and 6 are statutory as required by 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fujita*.

Claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus for performing a predetermined process in accordance with an operation on a touch panel overlaid on a display, wherein:

when the operation button is continuously operated before and after the detection of the change in aspect ratio and the predetermined process is a continuous process, the generating means generates a command to perform the predetermined process while the operation button is operated, regardless of another operation button operated after the detection of the change in aspect ratio.

Fujita discloses a source image screen and a operation button image screen.

Fujita, ¶ [0042]. When the format of a source image screen is changed (e.g., from normal mode to wide mode), the location of the operation button image screen is moved to accommodate the change in format. *Fujita*, ¶ [0056], and Figure 5.

However, *Fujita* does not “generate[] a command to perform the predetermined process while the operation button is operated,” “when the operation button is continuously operated before and after the detection of the change in aspect ratio . . . regardless of another operation button operated after the detection of the change in aspect ratio,” as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added). Accordingly, *Fujita* fails to anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3, while of different scope than claim 1, distinguish over *Fujita* for reasons similar to those of claim 1.

Independent claim 4 recites an information processing apparatus for performing a predetermined process in accordance with an operation on a touch panel overlaid on a display, wherein:

when the operation button is continuously operated before and after the detection of the change in aspect ratio, the generating means generates a command to stop the

predetermined process that is being executed, the predetermined process corresponding to the operation button operated before the detection of the change in aspect ratio.

While *Fujita* arguable discloses switching between aspect ratios, (¶ [0054]) *Fujita* does not “generate[] a command to stop the predetermined process that is being executed,” “when the operation button is continuously operated before and after the detection of the change in aspect ratio,” as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added). Accordingly, *Fujita* fails to anticipate claim 4.

Claims 5 and 6, while of different scope than claim 1, distinguish over *Fujita* for reasons similar to those of claim 1.

New claims 7-9 depend from one of the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 3, 2009

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Attachments: Amended Abstract